

From: Jeff I. Greenberg
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Boldly, this settlement is still not restoring any level of fairness to the marketplace.

The question becomes, how dominant is Microsoft in the marketplace now, and does the ruling allow competition.

I am not all knowledgeable. I am merely relating my experience as a computer professional. I teach technology to professionals on a daily basis.

1) How dominant?

Microsoft owns, has minimal competition, makes it difficult for anyone to break into the following areas:

Browsers. They have killed their prime competition, and refused to adhere to agreed upon standards, thereby forcing the community to adhere to theirs. This is included free with their operating system. It is reported that 90% of people over the age of 40 will not download a new browser; their only introduction to a new browser is when they buy a new computer.

I still don't understand why they can't unbundle their browser, unless it's to dominate the market.

They don't maintain parity on the Macintosh platform. And why should they. Apple is their competition.

Messengers. Suddenly, they need to add instant messaging to their operating system. Did they need to? No. Was the marketplace working without it? Sure. And again, it's bundled with their operating system.

Operating systems. Linux is viable...but Microsoft considers them to be threat...so they are a target under the gorilla's gaze. Meanwhile, for someone to be considered a computer professional, Microsoft has invented a number of certifications which provides them even more revenue.

Software. Go take a look at how many pieces of software MS makes. Now, how many of which are they the dominant player in the marketplace. I'll name a couple

- * Microsoft Word
- * Microsoft Excel
- * Microsoft Powerpoint
- * Microsoft Outlook
- * Microsoft Works

- * Great plains accounting
- * Halo which was going to be cross platform until microsoft bought bungie
- * Netmeeting
- * Visual Basic
- * Visual C++

In fact, I can only think of two products where microsoft doesn't own the marketplace. Microsoft Money, because quicken was there first, and Microsoft Publisher, because Adobe & Quark have sold professional packages.

Frankly, I'm astounded at the way the current government turns a blind eye to the way Microsoft operates, has operated, and is permitting the settlement to occur.

With each passing day, microsoft becomes further the squatter with XP and the .NET protocol and makes it even more difficult for another company (such as red hat, such as apple computers) to even dream of competing.

Settlement.

Microsoft offered to give schools in poor districts computers with software. Would you let your kids just go out and drink coke in school?

But that's exactly what's happening.

By capturing the youth market early, microsoft is further entrenching themselves as a monopoly. Today's children are tomorrow's workers.

But you say, they have to know the systems that are out there. They're out there because it's a monopoly. And Microsoft's offer, will only make it moreso.

Microsoft ought to pay for computers with the competition to be out there. Such as Apple, such as Red hat linux to be available.

My last thoughts.

How pervasive is microsoft? Simple. Go out to a large computer store. Try and buy a computer fully stocked with a word processor and spreadsheet without one piece of microsoft software on it.

Try it.

Now see if they don't truly have a monopoly.

Jeff I. Greenberg.